

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed January 26, 2004. Claims 14, 16, 105, 107, 135, and 137 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 5, 12, 15, 19, 20, 28, 103, 106, 108, 132, 136, and 138 have been amended. New claims 158-237 have been added, based on the allowed matter. Thus, claims 1-13, 15, 17-32, 103, 104, 106, 108-134, 136, 138-237 remain pending in the case. Applicant believes that, based on the allowed matter, the present claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited art, and are thus allowable. Reconsideration of the present case is earnestly requested in light of the following remarks.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-32, 103-106, 110-136, and 140-157 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shaheen et al., "Remote Laboratory Experimentation", 1998 ("Shaheen"). Additionally, the Office Action objected to claims 107-108, and 137-138 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claim 103 to include the limitations of claims 105 and 107, and has amended claim 132 to include the limitations of claims 135 and 137. New independent claim 158 includes the limitations of claims 103, 105, and 108. New independent claim 185 includes the limitations of claims 132, 135, and 138.

Applicant respectfully submits that these claims, and those claims respectively dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from Shaheen, based on the allowed matter, and are thus allowable.

Additionally, also based on the allowed matter of claims 107, 108, 137, and 138, independent claims 1, 12, 19, 20, and 28 have each been amended to include similar limitations as claims 105 and 107. New independent claim 209 includes similar

limitations as claims 1, 105, and 108. New independent claim 220 includes similar limitations as claims 12, 105, and 108. New independent claim 226 includes similar limitations as claims 19, 105, and 108. New independent claim 227 includes similar limitations as claims 20, 135, and 138. New independent claim 235 includes similar limitations as claims 28, 105, and 108. New independent claim 237 includes similar limitations as claims 1, 105, and 107. New independent claim 239 includes similar limitations as claims 1, 105, and 108.

Applicant respectfully submits that these claims, and those claims respectively dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from Shaheen, based on the allowed matter, and are thus allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5150-38601/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☒ Notice of Change of Address

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey C. Hood
Reg. No. 35,198
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800

Date: 4/17/2004